

NNEDV

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNTS

the National Census of Domestic Violence Services

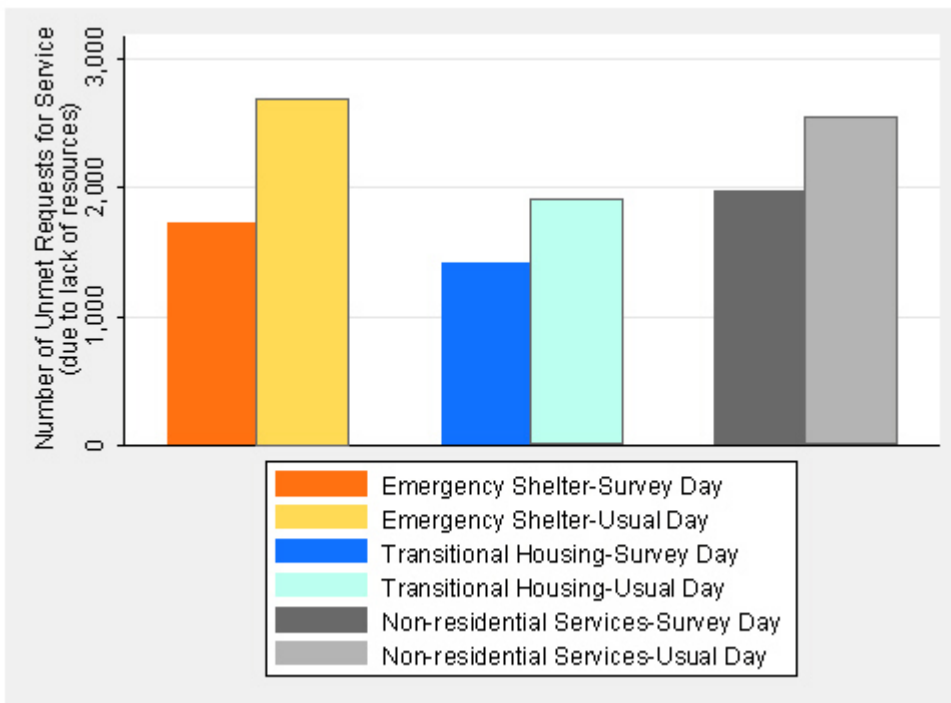
Unmet Demand for Services

Despite the prevalence and danger of domestic violence, local programs are typically underfunded and understaffed. As a result requests for services sometimes go unmet due to lack of resources. Many local programs explained that they never “turn away” victims – instead they work tirelessly to find another local program with available bed space or with available non-residential services.

“I believe these numbers will be able to help us reflect how many people we are serving, but I think it will only scrape the surface on the underserved communities. I don't think many people who don't speak English, are not citizens, or are male or are Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender are aware that services are available. I think considerable outreach needs to happen to these communities.”
-A rural program in the Midwest

Based on information provided by local programs, it appears that housing, both emergency and transitional, is particularly hard to find.

- Over **5,000** requests for services went unmet due to lack of resources. More than 50% of these requests were for some form of housing (either emergency shelter or transitional housing).
- Nearly **2,000** requests for non-residential services went unmet. This represents a range of requests, including individuals seeking time with an advocate and victims requesting court accompaniment. Over 200 programs had to turn away between 1 and 20 requests for service on the survey day.



“We always find ways to serve victims no matter how tight our resources are.”

-A suburban program in the Pacific Region

These numbers do not reflect individuals who did not seek services because they were either unaware of the existence of such services or because they believed the services were full or unavailable. As such, the study data likely underestimates the demand for domestic violence services.